

How can I get a job at the National Park Service? (Oct. 2012 rev)



People ask this all the time. It is possible to get jobs, but you must be persistent and adaptable. The federal job website: www.usajobs.gov lists all federal jobs along with requirements and application procedures, but it is intimidating to navigate. At that website, fill in the job title or agency you are interested in, your zip code, and click on job search. You will get all jobs near you. A new nationwide entry level job program for students or recent graduates called Pathways started in July 2012. Check the internet for info on OPM Pathways program for details. Here are other suggestions to help you in the Federal Job hunt maze.

Begin with background information at these NPS websites:

www.nps.gov/personnel/index.htm, has an overview of all types of NPS jobs, permanent and seasonal. You are referred to usajobs to apply.

www.nps.gov/fire has an overview of NPS fire jobs, background information about obtaining jobs in wildland fire and other information. You will be referred to usajobs to apply for jobs. www.firejobs.doi.gov has info on temporary fire positions for all agencies within the Department of the Interior. You can apply on line using their secure website for jobs in up to seven locations.

If law enforcement as a Park Ranger interests you, some type of law enforcement training is needed. This can be previous military or police work, and/or completion of seasonal park ranger training. The Association of National Park Rangers provides information on schools throughout the country offering seasonal park training on their website: anpr.org/academies.htm
Be aware, there is no age limit for seasonal Law Enforcement positions, but you can't get a permanent position if you are over age 35.

Competition for these jobs is tough. How do you get the background needed to give yourself a competitive edge? You become an intern or become a volunteer.

Intern positions are for high school or college students and recent college graduates who have had classroom experience and want job experience in the work world. Internships (even unpaid ones) can be written in the jobs section of your resume. Intern positions are handled directly at local office levels. At Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the intern website is: www.nps.gov/samo/parkmgmt/internships.htm

Volunteer positions are handled both at the local and at the national level. At the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area contact (805) 370-2301 for volunteer opportunities, or go to: www.nps.gov/volunteer/ for listings of volunteer positions nationwide.